

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application in view of the amendments, herein, and the following remarks:

The following claims are *pending*: 1-10.

The following claims are *independent*: 1.

Please *amend* claims 1; although these claims have been amended herein to provide clarification, correct typographical inaccuracies and/or informalities, and/or to better track practical/commercial implementations/practices, Applicant submits that the originally filed claims are patentable and reserves the right to pursue the originally filed claims (as well as any claims dependent therefrom) at a later time and/or in one or more continuation/divisional application(s). Applicant submits that these new claims and/or claim amendments are supported throughout the originally filed specification and that no new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichihari et al, US Publication No. 2003/0046203 (hereinafter “Ichihari”), and in further view of Vass, US Patent No. 7,251,627 (hereinafter “Vass”).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submits that a *prima facie* showing of obviousness has not been made and that the applied references, taken alone or in combination, fail to discuss or render obvious every element of each noted claim(s).

MPEP § 706.02(j) prescribes that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should set forth:

- (A) the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferably with reference to the relevant column or page number(s) and line number(s) where appropriate;
- (B) the difference or differences in the claim over the applied reference(s);
- (C) the proposed modification of the applied reference(s) to arrive at the claimed subject matter; and
- (D) an explanation as to why the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. (MPEP § 706.02(j))

Applicant submits that the rejections in the pending Office Action do not establish at least requirement(s) (A) and/or (B) of a *prima facie* showing of obviousness.

Applicant submits Ichihari does not discuss or render obvious at least the following element(s) as recited, *inter alia*, in independent claim 1:

A method implemented by a programmed computer system comprising:

...

... debt/equity ratio value is an output of one or more simulations;

calculating, ... earnings per share ... based ... upon ... the debt/equity ratio ... ;

...

The Office Action asserts the above claimed elements are shown in Ichihari and alleges:

Ichihari discloses... each changed debt/equity ratio value is an output of one or more simulations (para 0062-0063; via an enterprise makes loss as a result of volatility of earnings by a business risk [implied reiteration of stock prices resulting repeated change of debt/equity ratio] and [para 0089+; via implied and inherent simulation method in Monte Carlo simulation system]; (emphasis original) (Office Action, pp. 2-3).

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference.

In direct contrast to the Examiner's assertions, Applicant submits that Ichihari discusses quite the opposite, i.e.: *calculating debt/equity ratio based on earnings values*. For example, unlike the claimed "... debt/equity ratio value is an output of one or more simulations," Ichihari discusses: "the required capital composition (the optimum debt/equity ratio) of the invested capital can be obtained from the earnings probability distribution," (Ichihari, page 3, paragraph [0065]). Also, unlike the claimed "calculating, ... earnings per share ... based ... upon ... the debt/equity ratio ... , " in Ichihari,

Monte Carlo simulation... will allow the profit [i.e.: earnings] to be corrected by voliatilitys in the exchange rate and commodity prices and produce an output of a graph as shown in Fig. 10 that shows the probability distribution with respect to the profit absolute value; (Ichihari, page 5, paragraph [0089]).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Ichihari's *calculating debt/equity ratio based on earnings values* is different from at least the claimed "calculating, ... earnings per share ... based ... upon ... the debt/equity ratio ... , " as recited in claim 1. Similarly, Applicant submits that Vass's *method of calculating real non-simulated debt to equity ratios* fails to remedy the deficiencies identified above in Ichihari with regard to independent claim 1. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that the pending rejection has mischaracterized the language of the claim element and/or the applied reference(s) and, thus, has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The MPEP prescribes that, "when evaluating the scope of a claim, *every limitation in the claim must be considered*," (§ 2106 II(C), emphasis added) and, "*All words* in a claim

must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” (§ 2143.03, emphasis added). Applicant submits that the pending rejection has failed to consider “every limitation in the claim” and “[a]ll words in [the] claim” in judging the patentability of the claim against the prior art by mischaracterizing claim elements and/or over-generalizing the applied reference(s).

Accordingly, by neglecting and/or mischaracterizing claim elements, Applicant submits that a *prima facie* showing of obviousness has not been established and thus the applied reference(s) do not discuss or render obvious at least these claimed elements. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this basis of rejection and allowance of the claim(s). Should the Examiner maintain the rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide specific citations and explanations describing how each and every element of the pending claims are allegedly rendered obvious by the cited reference, providing indications of specific, alleged correspondences between claim elements and cited portions of the applied reference.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 2-10, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, are also not discussed or rendered obvious by Ichihari, which discusses, *calculating debt/equity ratio based on earnings values*, and Vass, which discusses, a *method of calculating real non-simulated debt to equity ratios*, taken alone or in combination, for at least similar reasons as those discussed above identifying deficiencies in the applied references with regard to the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this basis of rejection.

## CONCLUSION

Consequently, the reference(s) cited by this Office Action and/or any previous office action(s) (hereinafter “Office Action(s)”) do not result in the claimed invention(s), there was/is no motivation, basis and/or rationale for such a combination of references (i.e., cited references do not teach, read on, suggest, or result in the claimed invention(s)), and the claimed invention(s) are not admitted to be prior art. Also, Applicant does not accept, admit, and/or concede to any Official Notice that has been taken and/or (mis)characterizations of claims made in the Office Action(s). Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the supporting remarks and claimed inventions, claims 1-10, all: overcome all rejections and/or objections as noted in the Office Action(s), are patentable over and discriminated from the cited reference(s), and are in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant believes that the above remarks, which distinguish the claims over the cited reference(s), pertained only to noted claim element portions. These remarks are believed to be sufficient to overcome the prior art. While many other claim elements and/or bases for rejection were not discussed as they have been rendered moot based on the above amendments and/or remarks, Applicant asserts that all such remaining and not discussed claim elements and/or bases for rejection, all, also are distinguished over the prior art and reserves the opportunity to more particularly traverse, remark and/or distinguish over any such remaining claim elements and/or bases for rejection at a later time, should it become necessary. Further, any remarks that were made in response to any Office Action(s) objection and/or rejection as to any one claim element, and which may have been re-asserted as applying to other Office Action(s) objection and/or rejection as to any other claim element(s), any such re-assertion of remarks is not meant to

imply that there is commonality about the structure, functionality, means, operation, and/or scope of any of the claim element(s), and no such commonality is admitted as a consequence of any such re-assertion of remarks. As such, Applicant does not concede that any claim element(s) have been anticipated and/or rendered obvious by any of the cited reference(s) and/or any Official Notice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection(s) and/or objection(s), and allowance of all claims.

**Authorization**

Applicant hereby authorizes and requests that the Commissioner charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this and/or any accompanying and/or necessary papers to Deposit Account No. 03-1240, Order No. 17209-503. In the event that an extension of time is required (or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time), Applicant requests that the Commissioner grant a petition for an extension of time required to make this response timely, and, Applicant hereby authorizes and requests that the Commissioner charge any fee or credit any overpayment for such an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 03-1240, Order No. 17209-503.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of the application in any way, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,  
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